Pam
Conf.

Foreign Missions Conf. of N.A.

C12

MISSIONARY COOPERATION IN AFRICA

Hotel Gramatan, Bronxville, N. Y.

July 7-9, 1929

MISSIONARY RESEARCH LIBRARY

A meeting was held at the Hotel Gramatan, Bronxville, N. Y., July 7 to 9, under the auspices of the Africa Committee of the Committee of Reference and Counsel, to discuss plans for more effective cooperation in missionary work on the continent of Africa. Dr. P. H. J. Lerrigo acted as Chairman. A list of those present and the organizations they represent is attached hereto.

DEVOTIONAL SERVICES

The devotional services were in charge of Rev. A. B. Parson who led the service on Monday morning. Dr. C. D. Bonsack led the service on Sunday afternoon and Dr. C. E. Wilson on Monday afternoon. Dr. Thomas Jesse Jones led a brief memorial service for Mr. J. L. Sibley on Monday evening. The chairman called on members of the conference frequently throughout the sessions to offer prayer that all the plans made might be entirely in accordance with the will of God.

OPENING STATEMENT

The conference was opened on Sunday afternoon at 3:30 by the chairman who made a statement regarding the desirability of a larger cooperation in missionary matters in Africa which he referred to as "the emerging continent". He suggested that our mission work should be thought of in continent terms and that real losses had resulted from the fragmentary way in which the mission groups had dealt with problems that were essentially common in education, medicine, and other phases of the work. He urged that the meeting thoroughly face the present situation and decide what are the most pressing problems on which missionary agencies can work together in the next few years.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF THE CONFERENCE

Dr. T. S. Donohugh then spoke of the isolation of the missionaries and suggested that a real contribution to the advance of the work would lie in providing opportunities for them to meet together. A number of conferences have been held in recent years, such as Highlea, Hartford, Le Zoute, the West Africa Conference, and now this one. He suggested that the poorest work that is being done in Africa is along evangelistic lines, and urged that we must give the most careful consideration to the building of a church in Africa that will stand the pressure resulting from the rapidly changing material forces in that continent. He felt it vital that there should be cooperation in the study of how to develop a church that is self-controlled, self-propagating and self-supporting, and felt that the mission boards should send out cooperatively special men in evangelistic work, and direct attention especially to the training of natives of Africa particularly for this phase of missionary endeavor. He suggested also a study of the elements that lie back of the "prophet movements" in Africa.

Dr. Riggs reiterated the emphasis already placed on evangelism and felt that more attention ought to be given to the cultivation of those who are in positions of authority in dealing with the African people.

CONCRETE SUGGESTIONS

The chairman then called on the members of the conference to state what they thought were the things which we as a missionary group should undertake unitedly in the next three years. The following suggestions were made:

1. The development of native leadership.
2. A study of race conflicts.
3. Consideration of the "separatist movement" among native churches.
4. More mission emphasis on education to satisfy the African people.
5. Interdenominational and international approach to the Northern Mozambique territories in Portuguese East Africa.
6. The development of a strong worldwide African consciousness, with visits from Dr. Oldham and Dr. Mott to Africa.
7. Greater cooperation from the home churches in the development of the native church.
8. Conspectus of mission work being carried on in Africa which will provide a unit point of view to the home church.
9. Elimination of competition in mission work.
10. The relations between missions and governments.

The discussion on these points brought out that there are a number of questions with regard to the situation in Africa which are of serious moment due to the rapid increase in the exploitation of the material resources in Africa, as well as the land and labor of the African continent. The question is whether the Christian Church can develop sufficient force and stamina to be able to maintain its ethical and moral strength in the midst of the difficulties. It was brought out that there is something like a landslide toward Christianity in West Africa and that mass movements are going on quite aside from church activities. It was felt that mission forces not only ought to be aware of what is taking place but ought to be prepared to work in the finest cooperation so that their efforts may be most effective.

STATEMENT BY DR. OLDHAM

On Sunday evening Dr. Oldham spoke at length, dealing particularly with the following subjects:

1. The extraordinary and rapid changes and conflicts that are developing in Africa.
2. The necessity of evangelism in dealing with this situation and clearer understanding of what evangelism and salvation mean for Africa.
3. The question of health.
4. The whole problem of education which is necessary to maintenance of the spiritual life and the necessity of developing a missionary program and policy in educational matters which will enable governments to understand that the missions comprehend their task and are capable of dealing with it.
5. Religious education, in which he discussed the manual prepared by Mr. Dougall.

6. Christian literature, which subject was to be taken up on Tuesday morning.
7. Relations with governments.
8. The discovery of the right men and women for work in Africa, and the raising up of African leadership.
9. Developing an African consciousness in the minds of the people in Western countries.

At the Monday morning session Dr. Lerrigo reported a series of topics which the committee in charge of the meeting had suggested as providing a basis for discussion in order that the conference might discover which topics ought to have major attention in the next three years in the development of a joint program.

I. EVANGELISM

Under this head the following suggestions were made:

1. That one or more groups be set up on each side of the Atlantic to study the whole problem of what questions ought to be dealt with in evangelism.
2. The problem of preaching to Christians.
3. Its connection with the rising tide of civilization in Africa.
4. How to develop the moral stamina indispensable for African life.
5. The presentation of the gospel to animists.
6. Is there a science of building a church?
7. The strategy of the missionary enterprise in Africa as to languages and areas.
8. The method and content of our message.
9. The conservation of spiritual values in African languages.
10. How to build a living and moral church.
11. The lessons of the natives in flaming evangelism.
12. Refer to Miss McKenzie's statement on evangelism.
13. Regional conferences.
14. Lay witness evangelism.
15. Trained clergy.

II. EDUCATION

1. A simple interpretation of Guttman's philosophy.
2. A conservation of the essential elements in the tribal and social life in Africa.
3. A completion of the study of education now being carried on and decision as to how to proceed. This study deals with such subjects as government work in education, grants in aid and their effect as rewards, Bush schools and the problem of supervision, and other minor questions.
4. Missionaries equipped with the language of the ruling country and an appreciation of Latin cultures and knowledge.
5. Homogeneity of program between government and combined mission societies in the great different parts of Africa.
6. More men and women of the type of Sibley sent out cooperatively.
7. Men of creative ability in educational lines.
8. Encouragement of experiments in service, making demonstration centers.

The discussion of the question of the inferior training of many of the native leaders and the fact that higher training was not provided because of their tendency to withdraw from mission employment was made the subject of comment, also the problem of the difficulty of giving the natives of Africa the full gospel and expecting them to remain in their relationship to foreign governments at present.

III. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

1. Place copy of Dougall's book on Religious Education in the hands of each missionary, requesting him to experiment and report back to his board so the manual can be improved.

2. Determination of our own objectives in education and agreement upon a content and technique.

In discussion the question of the meaning of the term Religious Education was raised and attention was called to the fact that Christian institutions are not yet affecting the life of the communities around them as is the case in this country.

At the afternoon session the discussion was continued.

IV. HEALTH

1. The development of a simple health program through the schools.
2. Cooperation with governments in the elimination of endemic and epidemic diseases.
3. A clearer program in the medical training of natives.

Under this Dr. Loram suggested developing sanitarians or health officers who could help people in medical ways, and also the development of a full course medical school in South Africa. In discussion it was pointed out that German physicians are unable to go into Africa to study tropical diseases unless they go as missionaries. It was also urged that each board take definite steps in trying to secure the training of one or two native doctors.

V. RELATIONS BETWEEN MISSIONS AND GOVERNMENTS

The problems existing in Tanganyika in regard to the law controling the property of the Berlin missionary societies was mentioned by Dr. Richter. The problems in Portuguese territory regarding the use of vernacular in the schools and the teaching of Portuguese by Portuguese teachers were also mentioned. The question was raised whether it would be possible for machinery to be created which could voice the united opinion of missionaries in any territory to government on problems that arise.

On Monday evening, after the memorial service for Mr. Sibley, the discussion continued.

VI. RACE RELATIONS

1. Missionaries to assist the work of the recently created Institute of Race Relations in South Africa.

2. Investigation by the International Missionary Council of the joint councils developed in South Africa for the better understanding of white and black peoples working together, with a view to closer relationships with these councils on the part of mission boards.

3. Some organization in South Africa and Kenya to enable the church to place its views before government in a united way.

4. Definite steps to allay or ward off the bitterness of race relations in West Africa before development to the point which it has reached in South Africa.

VII. PERSONNEL

1. To build up a prayer fellowship looking toward the leading into work in Africa of men and women of the high type and quality desired.

2. An institute which can direct missionaries to the place where they can secure proper preparation.

3. A recognition of the rural problems to a degree which will affect the training of missionaries who go to Africa.

In discussion it was brought out that the University of Hamburg is planning special work for missionaries to Africa and the Seminary at Hartford has carried on training of this sort for some time.

Dr. Keppel was present on Monday morning and was invited to speak. He mentioned four matters that had come under his observation on his visit to Africa.

1. The responsibility which missionaries are carrying in relation to education, health conditions, and the economics and sociology of the African people which the governments seem to be quite willing for them to continue with.

2. The large extent to which governments help in this work, relieving the mission budgets of a great deal of financial burden.

3. The mission staff is eager to improve their work through more adequate equipment, etc.

4. He proposed a committee in this country to help advise missionaries on additional training which they might secure while on furlough along the three lines suggested - education, health and sociological problems.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED BY AFRICA COMMITTEE

The Africa Committee of the Committee of Reference and Counsel had held a meeting on Monday afternoon and presented to the conference a series of resolutions on the various subjects which have been discussed. It was

VOTED to adopt the following resolutions for substance and to propose them to the International Missionary Council for inclusion in whatever practical program it may work out for Africa in the next three years.

Items for inclusion in the program of the International Missionary Council for the next three years.

1. (Emphasize this point). Study of our evangelistic approach by groups both in Europe and America and in Africa.

2. Completion of survey of government educational policies of African territories, and the development of educational aims and policies for the Christian missionary organizations in the several areas.

3. In view of the fact that the social and economic changes taking place in Africa today bear most heavily upon women, special study should be given to the Christianization of Africa's womanhood and home life.

4. To further the cause of Religious Education in Africa and as a first step in this direction to arrange for the circulation of Mr. Dougall's "Religious Education in Africa" with a view to eliciting comments and suggestions and when these are received to bring it to completion.

5. Develop a health program for the Africa Missions including such points as the following: A comprehensive health program for use in schools. Cooperation with government in attack upon disease. The creation of an African medical staff.

6. To assist the boards and missions when desired in questions involving relations between missions and governments.

(Occupation of field and over-lapping of work?)

7. Seek opportunity to bring to bear the Christian viewpoint in relation to race questions.

8. Increase emphasis upon the importance of providing a larger number of suitably trained missionaries for African fields.

9. Carry into effect plans for creation of the Christian Literature Bureau.

10. Cooperate with International Institute of African Languages and Cultures and other agencies in seeking to understand and conserve what is valuable in African culture and institutions.

11. This program to be carried out by the executives of the International Missionary Council in cooperation with Africa committees of the various national organizations.

This conference expresses the earnest hope that the International Missionary Council in outlining its program for the immediate future will find it possible to arrange for its chairman, Dr. J. R. Mott, to make a visit to the continent of Africa.

Notes. Out of these suggestions we hope the International Missionary Council can develop a program, to be taken up as found practicable.

Rural and native leadership should be included.

Tuesday, July 9.

CHRISTIAN LITERATURE BUREAU FOR AFRICA

Dr. Lerrigo was in the chair. Following statements by Dr. Donohugh, Mr. Maclennan and Mr. Wilson on the history of the steps which had been taken leading to the inauguration of this Literature Bureau, a discussion was entered into as to practicable plans for the activities of the bureau. Careful consideration was given to the problem of making the bureau and its activities effective, because of its support of organizations so far removed from each other and from the continent of Africa.

A tentative constitution for the organization of the bureau was proposed and discussed in general. The following suggestions were made with regard to the establishment of the bureau.

1. That there should be places on the sections of the bureau for native Africans.

2. That it be considered an essential qualification of missionaries that they be able to produce literature and to prepare translations.

3. That the conference of missionary societies in South Africa be asked to cooperate.

4. That use be made of native Africans who are already beginning to write.

In the discussion it was also brought out that the natives are book hungry and the problem is to prepare and secure the distribution of literature which they will be interested in and use. It was felt that the success of the bureau depends upon the leaving of a large amount of freedom to the secretary in her carrying forward of the work.

It was announced that Miss Margaret Wrong had accepted the call to the secretaryship of the bureau and that the British and American societies had each secured assurances of the amount necessary to finance the bureau on the scale proposed.

The meeting took action giving general approval to the constitution as a provisional document and requested that the whole matter be referred to the International Missionary Council, indicating that so far as the North American interest in the bureau is concerned the most feasible plan would seem to be to regard the Africa Committee of the Foreign Missions Conference as the responsible group.

It was understood that the bureau will begin to operate on October 1, and it was tentatively agreed that the plan for Miss Wrong's activities for the first year should include contacts with the British boards on this subject while she is conducting a course of study in phonetics and the Swahili language; this period of about three months to be followed by a similar period in the United

States, during which she will make contacts with the American societies and then perhaps go to Egypt in order to study the work of the Central Committee for Christian Literature for Moslems. If it should seem best following this period of study she might perhaps proceed to Africa, but there is no desire to urge too heavy a program of travel upon her for the first year.

In the general approval of the constitution it was agreed that the section of the bureau in Great Britain should be primarily responsible for the program of work for Miss Wrong, and that the budget in any year should be subject to approval by the different groups that are contributing to it.

It was felt that some further study and possible elaboration of the statement of aim and functions of the bureau might be desirable at a later time.

Two members of the conference led in closing prayer, after which the meeting adjourned.

L. B. MOSS,

Secretary.

Present at Africa Meeting
July 7-9, 1929

Einar Amdahl, Norwegian Missionary Society
Henry Anet, Agent Liaison of Protestant Missions of the Belgian Congo
A. C. Baldwin, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society
Wade Crawford Barclay, Joint Committee on Religious Education in Foreign Fields
R. D. Bedinger, Missionary of Presbyterian Church in the U.S. in Congo-Belge
C. D. Bonsack, Church of the Brethren
R. S. Brank, Sudan United Mission
W. W. Cash, Church Missionary Society
Harwood B. Catlin, American Board
Cheng Ching Yi, National Christian Council of China
T. S. Donohugh, Methodist Episcopal Foreign Board
J. E. East, National Baptist Board
J. R. Edwards, Board of Foreign Missions of M. E. Church
M. W. Ehnes, " " " " "
James Endicott, United Church in Canada
C. H. Fahs, Missionary Research Library
Mrs. Mary Grace Forgan, United Free Church of Scotland
Miss B. D. Gibson, International Missionary Council
O. E. Goddard, Methodist Episcopal, South
Parker Gray, English Baptist layman
L. S. B. Hadley, Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.
F. H. Hawkins, London Missionary Society
Miss Hollis Hering, Missionary Research Library
A. Koechlin, World's Committee of the Y.M.C.A.
P. H. J. Lerrigo, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society
C. T. Loram, Committee for Native Affairs, Union of South Africa
Kenneth Maclennan, Conference of Mission Societies in Great Britain and Ireland
H. T. Medford, African M. E. Zion Church
B. H. Niebel, Sudan United Mission
J. H. Oldham, International Missionary Council
Miss Constance Padwick, Near East Christian Council
A. B. Parson, Protestant Episcopal Church in U.S.A.
C. H. Patton, American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions
Julius Richter, University of Berlin
E. W. Riggs, American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions
James B. Rodgers, Missionary of Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. in Philippines
Miss Minnie Sandberg, Woman's Baptist Foreign Mission Society
Miss Esther Strong, International Missionary Council
M. E. Thomas, United Lutheran Church in America
A. L. Warnshuis, International Missionary Council
Mrs. A. L. Warnshuis
C. E. Wilson, Baptist Missionary Society, England
C. M. Yocum, United Christian Mission Society
Leslie B. Moss, Foreign Missions Conference of N. A.